

Consideration of the dedication of the Laura Hare Nature Preserve at Back Creek in Lawrence County

The proposed Nature Preserve is a 42.7 acre property that is in the eastern portion of Lawrence County, approximately 8.0 miles east of the town of Bedford. This nature preserve protects an example of mesic/dry mesic upland forest in the Norman Upland within the Brown County Hills Section of the Highland Rim Natural Region.

This Nature Preserve consists of topography that has a discrete and disjunct stand of eastern hemlock – *Tsuga canadensis* – occurring on the steep sheltered west-facing slope. The eastern hemlock is one of Indiana's rarest and most interesting tree species. A previous study conducted by Carroll Ritter estimated over 3800 hemlocks at this site in a stable population, with extensive reproduction evident. Approximately 14 acres of the site are dominated by the hemlock stands, while the remaining 28.7 acres is mainly upland forest. Approximately one acre lies beneath the bluff on the creek, and contains a variety of bottomland hardwood species.

Noteworthy plant species found in this Nature Preserve include:

The site is home to the state-threatened purple flowering raspberry - *Rubus odoratus*, the state-rare dwarf ginseng - *Panax trifolium* and the uncommon goatsbeard – *Aruncus dioicus*. The associated flora includes a profound display of trout lily, partridgeberry, marginal shield fern, and deerberry in the understory along with an abundance of sedges. The site produces a phenomenal number of geodes eroding from the Harrodsburg limestone present on the ridge tops.

This tract is owned and managed by the Sycamore Land Trust.

The Division of Nature Preserves recommends dedication of this site as a State Nature Preserve.

Attached is Nature Preserves exhibit A.

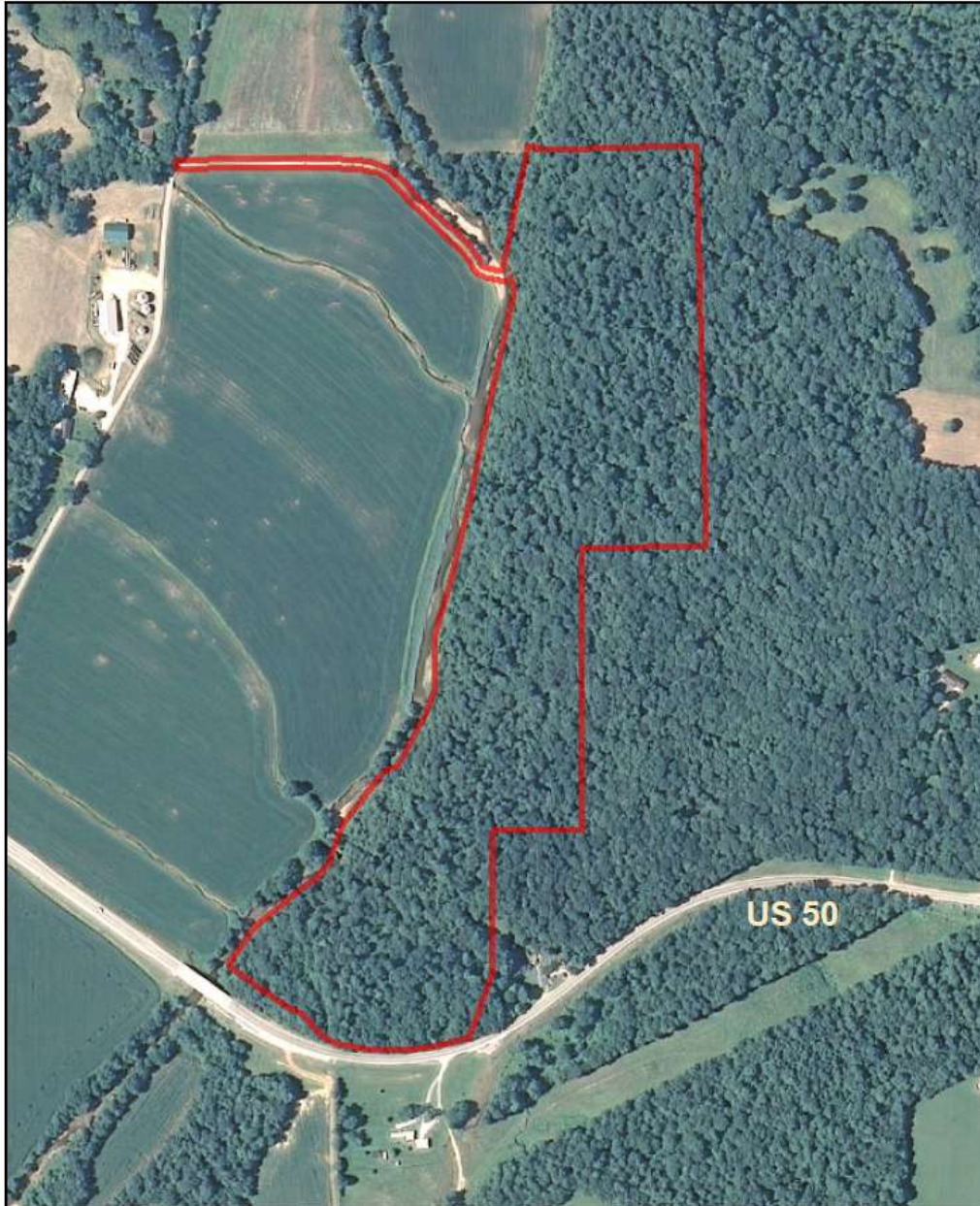
The Laura Hare Nature Preserve at Back Creek

Exhibit A

County: Lawrence
Size: 42.723 acres

USGS Map:
Ownership:

7.5 Quad Norman
Sycamore Land Trust



map created by R Wilson IDNR Nature Preserves 01.12.2012

0 0.05 0.1 Miles

